

Arctic Sentry

“To Fight and Support the Fight - Any Time, Any Place”

168th ARW ORE

The 168th Air Refueling Wing will use the Giant Voice system during their two-day Operational Readiness Exercise from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 14-15. For more information please call Master Sgt. Teresa Renson at 377-8722.

Around Eielson

A quick look at what's going on

Today

► Base theater: **Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Dangerous**, (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Saturday

► Base theater: **Guess Who**, (PG-13) 7 p.m.

► May Fitness Aerobathon takes place 9-11:30 a.m. at the fitness center.

Sunday

► 1-5 p.m. Moms bowl up to three games free when accompanied by their child at Arctic Nite Lanes. Call 377-1129.

► Base theater: **Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous**, (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Monday

► 5 p.m. Build your own hoagie pizza at the Yukon Club.

Tuesday

► 5 p.m. Prime rib and cook your own steak night at the Yukon Club.

Wednesday

► 5 p.m. Family style buffet at the Yukon Club.

Thursday

► 5 p.m. Pasta Extravaganza at the Yukon Club.

► Base theater: **Guess Who**, (PG-13) 7 p.m.

May 13

► 5 p.m. Seafood dinner special at Yukon Club.

Cope Thunder wraps up today

by 1st Lt. Teresa Sullivan
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Cope Thunder participants took advantage of Eielson's 62,000 square miles of training airspace and met their objective, to fly, fight and win during Pacific Air Force's premier combat-airpower exercise wrapping up today.

The two-week exercise took place here and Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

“All Cope Thunder units had one collective mission objective I wanted them to accomplish: to take advantage of the great Pacific Alaska Range Complex to get better at what we do for a living – fly, fight and win,” said Col. Michael Boera, 353rd Air Expeditionary Wing commander. “I didn't care whether they were here as an aviator, maintainer or a member of the expeditionary combat support team, the mission was to learn while here and get better at what we do.”

Cope Thunder, PACAF's largest air combat training exercise, involved approximately 1,000 Air Force and Air National Guard participants and 50 aircraft.

Missions flown during Cope

Thunder prepare pilots and support crews for combat in a realistic environment. The exercise enhanced tactical training and focused on integrating and conducting air and space superiority, precision engagement, and close air support.

“My intent was to continue to offer the opportunity for our young force to train for large force employment, where large numbers of aircraft attack a particular target, while also concentrating an effort towards destruction of enemy air defenses and time sensitive targeting,

See *Exercise*, Page 2



Airman Justin Weaver

F-16s from Misawa AB, Japan and Luke AFB, Ariz. and F-15s from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, sit on the flightline here during Cope Thunder.

Joint Combat Search, Rescue



Airman Justin Weaver

An HH-60G Pavehawk helicopter from Det. 1, 210th Rescue Squadron lands in the White Mountains, while waiting for an Airborne Alert call during a training mission Cope Thunder April 28.

Cope Thunder exercise prepares Airmen for war

by Airman Justin Weaver
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

An aircraft is shot down and the survivor is stranded in a hostile location, hoping to be rescued.

This scenario was part of a Cope Thunder joint combat search and rescue mission held in the White Mountains and the Yukon Range April 28.

A-10 pilots from the 355th Fighter Squadron, an Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft and crew from the 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska and two HH-60G Pavehawk helicopters and their crews from the Det. 1, 210th Rescue Squadron, practiced real-world situations during an airborne alert training exercise here, said Maj. William Kupchin, Det. 1, 210th RQS commander.

The Pavehawk helicopters flew to the White Mountains where they remained on alert, at a safe distance

See *CSAR*, Page 6

Army hands over Strykers to 3rd ASOS

by Master Sgt. Andrew Gates
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

With a handshake and the roar of a mighty engine, an Eielson unit became the first in the Air Force to own the latest addition to the service's inventory – the Stryker armored vehicle.

In a ceremony Thursday at Fort Polk, La., the 3rd Air Support Operations Squadron obtained five of the Army's high-tech armored vehicles. The unit is assigned to the 354th Operations Group at Eielson, but its primary customer is the Army's 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

This first-ever joint effort between the two services will help serve the Army better by protecting the men and women who guide reconnaissance and attack aircraft during combat operations, said Lt. Col. Russell Smith, 3rd ASOS commander. As a liaison between ground forces and aerial units, the squadron can help the ground-bound Army forces “see” what's over the next hill or building.

“We are the Air Force experts at the ground commander's right hand,” he said. “Without airpower expertise on the battlefield, we leave the great American soldier on the ground ‘naked.’ The Army has transformed into an agile and light fighting force, but in doing so, it has become far more reliant upon airpower.”

See *Stryker*, Page 2



Maj. John Seuell, 3rd Air Support Operations Squadron director of operations, conducts equipment familiarization training in one of the Stryker vehicles during a March exercise at Fort Wainwright.

101 ways to get out, enjoy summer

Services Summer Expo takes place May 14

by Senior Airman Jasmine Reif
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Icemen can tour camping trailers, plan fishing trips or attend hunting and fishing seminars at the 2005 Services Summer Expo 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 14 at the fitness center.

Booths and activity stations will be placed inside and outside the fitness center.

“Alaskan artist, Barbara Lavalle, will show and sign her work and travel and tour vendors such as Stan Stephans, Prince William Sound tours; the Riverboat Discovery, the Alaska Salmon Bake, Eldorado Gold Mine, Ester Gold Camp, Denali River Rafters, Northern Lights Fishing Charters of Valdez will be available to help people plan trips or buy tickets,” said Connie Storch, 354th Services Squadron marketing assistant. “Also, our Information, Tickets and Travel office will offer discount tickets for many tourist attractions in Alaska and in the Lower 48.”

Outdoor enthusiasts may be interested in the

fishing and hunting seminars provided by award-winning author Chris Batin. All seminars and activities are free.

The hunting and fishing seminars by Mr. Batin are a first for Eielson. He is a best-selling author and outdoor guide with 30 years experience. He has taught thousands of people how to catch fish – salmon, halibut and more, said Mrs. Storch. The fishing seminars will be tailored to the local area, for Valdez and other areas around the state. Afternoon sessions will

See *Expo*, Page 2

Wear policy for new physical training uniform

by Senior Airman Jasmine Reif
354th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Eielson Army Air Force Exchange Service Military Clothing Store has been receiving daily shipments of the new Air Force physical training uniform.

The jacket, shirts, shorts and pants are available in a variety of sizes and costs \$119 for all four pieces.

Members are expected to purchase their own uniforms. Beginning October 2004, the enlisted member's annual clothing replacement allowance was increased by \$118.80 to help offset the cost of purchasing and maintaining the new uniform. This allowance is paid to enlisted members in the anniversary month of their enlistment. Officers do not receive an annual clothing allowance and,

therefore, will not get any additional funding to pay for the new uniform.

The PT uniform has a specific wear policy that applies anytime individuals are required to be at official physical training, such as during organized PT, at a minimum. The mandatory wear date is to be determined.

The following policies must be followed:

- Any combination of PT uniform items may be worn together (jacket with T-shirt and shorts, T-shirt with shorts or pants). PT uniform items must not be worn with any civilian clothing.
- Air Force T-shirt (short- or long-sleeved style) must be worn tucked into shorts.
- Jacket must be at least half zipped and hood must be stored and zipped when not worn.

- Pants must be zipped at the legs.
- Spandex shorts and leggings (navy blue or black) may be worn under PT shorts (full-length leggings may be worn during cold weather).
- White socks must be worn; ankle or calf length. Small conservative trademark logos are okay.
- Shoes must be a conservative color.

- Hats are not required when wearing the PT uniform, but if optional organizational hats are worn, commanders must standardize.
- Saluting not required when performing PT activities, but is required regardless of uniform type when not performing PT activities and when meeting individuals

See *PT*, Page 2

Stryker from Page1

"Looking at the aircrew's faces as they came in the door from missions is always a high for me," he said. "To see our young aviators wide-eyed from their experience in the air means we're accomplishing our mission and we're doing our job to train

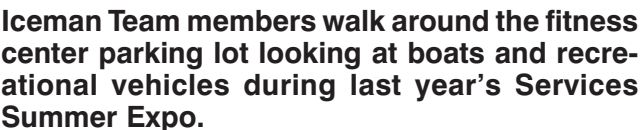
Participants included: the 35th Fighter Wing and 13 Fighter Squadron F-16s from Misawa AB, Japan; 355 FS A-10s, 63rd Fighter Squadron F-16s from Luke AFB, Ariz.; 90th Fighter Squadron F-15Es from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; 963rd AACs E-3s of Tinker AFB, Okla.; 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60s from Kulis Air National Guard in Anchorage, 168th Air Refueling Squadron KC-135s from Eielson, 121st Air Refueling Squadron KC-135s from the Ohio National Guard and the 25th Air Support Operations Squadron, Joint Terminal Attack Controllers of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

As more Army units move into the Stryker vehicle, it is crucial that the 3rd ASOS and simi-

After that month, though, the engines of the 3rd ASOS's Strykers will fall silent for a time as the vehicles make the trip to Southwest Asia. When the mighty engines roar once more, the 3rd ASOS will drive into the history books, becoming the first Air Force unit to use the Stryker armored vehicle in combat.

**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
University, master's degree**
TSgt. Steven Belt
SMSgt. Kenneth Kent

For information about available sizes call 377-3385.



For more information call 377-3268.

DWI CLOCK

MAINTAINED BY THE 354TH MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

Need a free ride home?
377-RIDE

Days without a DWI:
47

Days until goal:
13

Airmen Against Drunk Driving volunteers gave **22** rides last weekend and have 'saved' **4,026** lives.



Arctic Sentry

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office of Eielson AFB. All photos are official Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated. The deadline for submission of articles for publication in the *Arctic SENTRY* is 4 p.m. Friday, seven days prior to the publication date.

Best Metro Format Newspaper in PACAF 2003-2004

Editorial staff

Capt. Bradley Jessmer
Chief, Public Affairs

Senior Airman Jasmine Reif
Editor

Airman Justin Weaver
Staff Writer

HALL OF FAME

The Hall of Fame is a program for group commanders to recognize Airmen for excellent job performance.



Tech. Sgt.
Trever Perkins
Specialist Section
Shift Supervisor
18th AMU
Bowie, Md.

“He portrayed extraordinary management skills while filling in as specialist section chief. He oversaw the coordination of training, daily maintenance operations, personnel and work center requirements for 40 people in three different specialties. His ability to multi-task in a stressful environment has made him a valuable asset to the section.”



Senior Airman
Curt Mitchell
Munitions Controller
354th MXS
Offutt AFB, Neb.

“He attends Wayland Baptist University and is only three classes short of his degree. At work he is responsible for providing at-a-glance visibility of all munition movements on and off the flightline. He also spends many weekends at the Fairbanks Animal Shelter caring for abandoned dogs. He is a strong, enthusiastic young man who knows where he is going and how he's going to get there.”



Senior Airman
Jason Taliaferro
Aircraft Electro-Environmental
System Journeyman
354th MXS
Panama City, Fla.

“He has distinguished himself in and out of the duty section. On a daily basis, he demonstrates technical prowess in the troubleshooting and repair of installed electrical and environmental systems, including batteries, fire extinguishing, vacuum and bleed air systems. He also received the academic achievement and distinguished graduate awards in airman leadership school.”



Senior Airman
Dustin Trevino
Installation Entry
Controller
354th SFS
Harlingen, Texas

“He is a true ambassador for the base and the Air Force. A retired Air Force member said, ‘Without fail he is courteous and respectful ... he is alert and focused on his duties. His dress and appearance and military bearing are outstanding.’ He always displays a positive image to the public while ensuring his duties are carried out in a professional manner.”



Senior Airman
Kylee Wright
Aerospace Medical Service
Journeyman
354th MDOS
Clinton, Md.

“She exels at meeting the needs of the patients. ‘Service Before Self’ is how she approaches each day. Her dedication to patients was never more evident than when she recently stepped up during an emergency situation and rendered aid with the maturity of a senior technician.”

AIR FORCE AIM POINTS DAILY MESSAGES

Promotion study guides

Officials from Air Education and Training Command recently announced that the latest editions of the enlisted promotion study guides would become available to Airmen by the end of May.

Both the Promotion Fitness Examination and the U.S. Air Force Supervisory Examination study guides, commonly known as the PFE and USAFSE, and officially known as Volumes 1 and 2 of Air Force Pamphlet 36-2241, will be online by July 1 at www.e-publishing.af.mil.

The goal is to get study materials to promotion-eligible members by July 1 in the following priority:

1. Senior master sergeants testing for chief master sergeant in cycle 05E9.
2. Master sergeants testing for senior master sergeant in cycle 06E8.
3. Staff and technical sergeants testing in cycle 06E6/7.
4. Senior airmen testing for staff sergeant in cycle 06E5.
5. All remaining eligible enlisted personnel.

A significant change for senior noncommissioned officers is that Volume 2 now includes the PFE. In the past, master and senior

master sergeants received two study guides.

The PFE includes updated information about counseling, communication and Air Force organizations and new information about military benefits, the virtual military personnel flight and nutrition. Greater emphasis is also placed on enlisted contributions in Air Force history.

Changes to the supervisory guide include new information about contingency warfare planning and critical thinking, and chapters on staff-level communication and civilian personnel management.

“The 2005 study guides are a result of inputs from Airmen around the globe. Airmen asked for a better product and here it is, saidan Air Force Occupational Measurement Squadron Professional Development Flight representative.

Boys & Girls Clubs

Air Force Services Youth Centers have partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs since 1995. The partnership has greatly benefited our Airmen’s youth.

In addition to the enhanced training and programming, it’s provided regional and national recognition and scholarships for youth

of Air Force families.

The partnership also eases the transition between living in an on base community and living in an off base community as Air Force families PCS around the world.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America serve over four million youth, ages 6-18, each year in its 3,400 neighborhood-based facilities. They provide a wide variety of programs that address today’s most pressing youth issues and teach skills needed to succeed in life.

Some of their programs include education, the environment, health, the arts, careers, alcohol, drug and pregnancy prevention, gang prevention, leadership development and athletics.

In recognition of outstanding leadership and vision in forging the unique partnership and its many benefits to thousands of youth, Mr. Arthur Myers, Director of Air Force Services, was inducted into the Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s Alumni Hall of Fame on April 28 at a ceremony in San Diego, Calif., held in conjunction with their national conference.

Other notable inductees include President Bill Clinton, Bill Cosby, Michael Jordan, Derek Jeter and Denzel Washington.

ACCESS EIELSON

Editor’s Note: Access Eielson is the central source for all base helping agencies. All activities take place at the family support center unless otherwise noted. For a list of other classes and programs call 377-2178 or surf to www.eielson.af.mil. Please RSVP for classes. For classes taking place at family advocacy call 377-4041.

Classes
Check-Out Your Checking Account, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday.
Application Process for Alaska State Jobs, 9-10:30 a.m. Tuesday.
Parenting at a Distance, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesday.
“Who Moved My Cheese?” Change Management, 5-6:30 p.m. Tuesday
Estate Planning, 6-8 p.m. Wednesday.
How to Search and Apply for Local Jobs, 9-11 a.m. Thursday.
Dealing with Difficult People in the Workplace, 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday.

Programs
Deployment Briefings - Every Tuesday and Thursday, singles at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and married at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Smooth Move, 9-11:30 a.m. every Wednesday.
Polar Stroller Rollers, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Wednesday at the youth center gym.
Breastfeeding Support Group, 10-11 a.m. every Thursday at life skills support center.
Pre-Separation Briefing, 2-3 p.m. every Thursday. Mandatory 90 days prior to separation.
Pet Sitters List, Identifies community members who are available to care for your pets in your home while you’re away from your base housing unit.

Volunteer spotlight
The “Volunteer of the Quarter 2005” is Cynthia Sullivan. Mrs. Sullivan volunteers her time at the Eielson Thrift Shop. She earned the “Volunteer of the Month” parking spot at the base exchange during the month of May and was also awarded a \$25 dollar gift certificate to the Yukon Club.

Volunteer opportunities
The **Literacy Council of Alaska, Fairbanks** is looking for volunteers at the bookstore; cashiers, shelf stockers, cleaners, book sorters, photocopiers, painting and cleaning.
The **Eielson Thrift Shop** is looking for helpers with customer service, varied hours.
Big Brothers, Big Sisters is in need of mentors. For just an hour per week, you can make a difference in a child’s life.
For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities, please call Mr. Clarence Hilyard at 377-5110.

✂

Personal Financial Management Classes

Check Out Your Checking Account

11:30 a.m.to 1 p.m.Monday

Estate Planning

6-8 p.m. Wednesday

Credit Management, The Good, Bad and Ugly

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 16

Values, Goals and Your Money Personality

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 23

To register, call the family support center at 377-2178.

✂

6 FRI Push It Up takes place 4:30 p.m. at the Aurora Club. There will be free bar snacks, music and crud. Call 377-2051.

A Cinco de Mayo Kids Night Out takes place 6:30-11 p.m, at the youth center. Call 377-3194.

A Teens’ Open Mic Night takes place 7-11 p.m. today and Saturday at the Teen Break, located behind Arctic Nite Lanes. A photo ID is required. Call 377-7076.

7 SAT The May Fitness Aerobathon takes place 9-11:30 a.m. at Fitness Center. Free T-shirts while supplies last.

Glow bowling takes place 7-11 p.m. Saturdays at Arctic Nite Lanes. Shoes, pins and house balls glow in the dark. Call 377-1129.

8 SUN Mother’s Day Brunch takes place 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Yukon Club. Reservations are not required. Call 377-2635.

Moms bowl up to three games free when accompanied by their child 1-5 p.m. at Arctic Nite Lanes. Call 377-1129.

A family skeet tournament takes place 3-5 p.m. Mother’s Day. Call 377-37SKEET.

13 FRI Family Bingo takes place 5:30 p.m. at the community center. Pay \$3 for ten games. There will be trivia questions, snacks and prize giveaways. Call 377-2642.

14 SAT The Services Summer Expo takes place 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the fitness center. The expo brings area vendors to base - offering

tour and travel information, outdoor experiences and “how to” demonstrations in scuba and kayaking in the pool. Outdoorsman and author Chris Batin will teach hunting and fishing seminars and outdoor recreation will display their collected outdoor gear available for rental. Call 377-4880.

Karaoke for adults takes place 9 p.m. at the Deadhorse Saloon May 14. Call 377-2635.

The Pitch, Hit and Run for youth 7-14 years old takes place noon to 2 p.m. at the fitness center. PHR provides children across the country the opportunity to participate in a baseball skills competition. Call 377-1069.

The Yukon Club’s delivery service, Debbie’s Delivery is available 5-8 p.m. week-nights and 5-9 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Angel awards

The Angel Awards take place 11 a.m. May 20 at the Yukon Club. The awards recognize outstanding volunteers from the past year. For more information and to order a lunch call 377-5110.

National Prayer Breakfast

The National Prayer breakfast takes place 8 a.m. May 19 at the Yukon Club. Cost is \$5. For more information, call 377-2130.

Operation Camp Purple

Registration for Operation Camp Purple continues at the family support center. OCP camps provide summer camp experiences for more than 2,000 children whose parents are deployed. The camp takes place July 17-23 for children ages 9-15 at the Lost Lake Scout Camp. Call 377-2178 or 4211.

Thrift shop

The thrift store is accepting consignments. Cost is \$1 consignor agreement fee. For more information call Cynthia Sullivan at 372-2123.

Extinguisher checks

Housing occupants are responsible for ensuring their fire extinguisher is checked monthly. In the event the extinguisher appears damaged or the gauge needle isn’t in the green, the extinguisher needs to be brought to the housing maintenance self-help store for replacement. The fire department also has weekly fire extinguisher classes. Classes are held 8 a.m. Mondays and 1 p.m. Fridays.
To operate the fire extinguishers remember PASS:
P- Pull the pin

A-Aim at the base of the fire
S-Squeeze the lever
S-Sweep back and forth
Fire extinguisher checks - Ask yourself the following questions monthly:
● Is it located in its designated place
● Is it accessible
● Are the safety seals and tamper indicators broken or missing
● Is it full
● Is it physical damaged, corroded, leaking or is the nozzle clogged
● Is the pressure gauge reading or indicator in the operable range or position
For more information or assistance, call 377-1293.

Holiday light removal

All exterior holiday display lights must be removed from the exterior of quarters no later than May 13. Housing inspectors will conduct outside inspections to ensure residents have accomplished this requirement beginning May 16.

EOSC social

The Eielson Officers’ Spouses’ Club May social takes place 6:30 p.m. May 19 at the Aurora Club. Reservations are required. For more information and reservations call 372-1856.

RV storage removal

Icemen with items stored in the RV storage lot who have not paid storage fees have a 30-day window to remove items. Only approved RVs, boats, trailers, and recreational items are authorized in the lot. Call 377-1328.

COMMANDER’S CORNER

Commander’s Hotline — 377-6100

The Hotline is your opportunity to get your issues and comments directly to me so I can address them.
Before you call the hotline, however, I strongly encourage you to give the unit involved, your first sergeant or commander a shot at resolving the issue. The Iceman Team takes care of its own, but you should give these people the chance to help. Please leave the names and organizations of the people you’ve contacted who have been unable to satisfy your concern, and I will look into the problem.
Your confidentiality will be respected at all times. Thank you!

Brig. Gen. Marke Gibson
354th Fighter Wing commander

AAFES	372-2139	Housing management	377-2244
CE customer service	377-2100	Inspector general	377-2109
Chaplain	377-2130	Military personnel flight	377-2276
Dining facility	377-2536	Legal	377-4114
Family support center	377-2178	Public affairs	377-2116
Finance	377-1851	Services	377-2857
Fraud, waste & abuse	377-2109	TRICARE	377-5235, Ext. 2

Military Spouse Appreciation Day
Thankful for your “Service”

by Gen. Paul V. Hester
Pacific Air Forces Commander

HICKAM AFB, Hawaii – Each year, we set aside a special day to honor our Spouses. A simple act to annually declare that you are important to us...blood and Air Force family together. Our actions, hopefully, tell you this message every day. Friday, May 6 is this year’s

Military Spouse Appreciation Day and I ask that you join me in honoring our Pacific Air Forces’ Spouses. They are essential....no, vital members of the PACAF team, and we are a stronger force for our nation because of their contributions.
Our spouses cover the breadth of involvement in our communities and provide the thread that reminds us that

our mission is in defense of our Nation and its families. They are the Chief’s wife of 30 years who attends every military graduation and formal banquet to show her support of our dedicated Airmen; the Lieutenant’s husband who helps pack her bags and sends her off to combat while he stays home with the kids; the Tech Sergeant’s wife who volunteers 60 hours a week in

the Family Support Center caring for other military families; and the literal thousands of others who provide a never-ending source of encouragement and loyalty to our Airmen and their families.
Lynda and I extend our deepest appreciation to all of you for your “Service” along with the most sincere THANK YOU from a grateful Air Force.

354th FW vice commander bids farewell: “You’ve made me proud”

by Col. Ben Bitler
354th Fighter Wing vice commander

As I wrap up my two years at Eielson and leave wing-level operations for the last time in my career, I wanted to take time to reflect on what I’ve seen from the Iceman Team during my relatively short tenure here. To put the bottom line up front, I became impressed, over time, with the way this team pulls together to conquer challenges in a very unique and demanding environment.
First impressions are hard to shake and frankly my initial assessment of this wing was influenced by what I saw in an Operational Readiness Exercise a month after I arrived. Knowing that we were staring at an Operational Readiness Inspection in just a few months I was anxious to see where we stood as we were preparing for the ultimate peacetime report card for a fighter wing. Well, the exercise was indicative of a wing that hadn’t been routinely exercising and made it very clear that we had lots of work to do to have any hope of being successful when the Pacific Air Forces Inspector General came to scrutinize our act. Some folks had warned me about the perceived prevalence of an attitude across the wing that “Fishin’ is the mission” and that it would be a struggle to get this wing ready for a major inspection in just a few short months, especially with a long cold winter just around the corner. Frankly, I was worried that we might not be ready in time, given the weather constraints we were dealing with. It was soon after that August exercise that I watched the professionals across this wing take the bull by the horns, identify their

weaknesses, develop and modify processes and procedures, and set a course for success. Needless to say, by the time the IG stepped off the plane wearing parkas and suntans from Hawaii, the Iceman Team was ready for the challenge and clearly kicked butt.
The 355th Fighter Squadron and Aircraft Maintenance Unit was facing a six month deployment to Afghanistan last March with a tasking to deploy with new equipment in the form of Litening targeting pods and needed to be ready to deliver laser-guided bombs, a first for the Hawg community. The introduction of the new sensor just two months before the squadron was scheduled to deploy created havoc for both operations and maintenance. Add to that the foul winter weather as the squadron was trying to accomplish the many requisite “squares” required for combat operations as well as the Herculean task to complete all scheduled maintenance on the A-10s normally conducted over six months in just two months and you can see that the operations and maintenance team performed minor miracles to be ready when it really counted. Not surprisingly, all the feedback from the leadership in theater was overwhelmingly positive regarding the combat performance of the 355th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron.
You can tell a lot about the mettle of an organization when it is faced with a devastating event. None is more devastating to a fighter unit than losing a jet along with a well-respected fighter pilot. This wing lost one of its best in February 2004, and while it was a gut wrenching experience for all of us, it was also uplifting to see the way the wing responded to the tragedy. The Iceman Team exhibited remarkable compassion for the

family of the pilot who lost his life that dark day, but faced with a near-term combat deployment, persevered through the tough times and focused on the monumental task at hand ensuring the jets, pilots and maintainers would be more than ready to go four weeks later. This wing proved it was a class act.
After spending a couple nasty winters in Alaska I have come to appreciate the difficulty and truly unique environment in which the Iceman Team operates. We operate in those unforgiving conditions without excuse or relief from the same standards and expectations that our operational fighter wings do in the “lower 48.” To say that we were able to generate the required combat power in this arctic environment is enough of an accomplishment. To be able to say that our maintainers not only generated the required sorties, but also maintained the highest mission capable rates across PACAF and the combat air forces, speaks volumes for the fortitude and professionalism of our people.
I could go on and on about the unique challenges we have faced as a team and how we typically find ourselves at the top of the heap when all the stats are counted, but I don’t have room to capture all of the success stories I have witnessed over just two short years. Suffice to say, I will leave this wing with a heavy heart because of the people I have grown to admire and after witnessing a dedication to the mission that is second to none. Thank you for making me proud to wear the same patch as you, and for proving fishing is fun but not the mission here at Eielson.

CSAR from Page 1

from the “battle,” he said.

Once the A-10s receive word that an aircraft has been shot down, they move into action.

“The A-10 pilots use radios to make contact with a survivor, assess injuries and gather intelligence about the crew’s location as well as any nearby enemies,” Major Kupchin said.

The A-10’s ability to fly “low and slow” allows the pilot to loiter in the rescue area for long periods of time and vector rescue helicopters to the right spot or use the plane’s armament if need be.

“The HH-60 aircrew loves the A-10 because it can get low and eliminate nearby threats.” Major Kupchin said.

Major Kupchin, a 15-year veteran pilot, said the A-10s are an important part of the rescue.

“The A-10s (patrol) the route and make contact with the survivor. They will authenticate the survivors and make sure they are not the bad guys,” he said. “The A-10s will find out the injuries and pass it to us so we can prepare for what exactly we’ll need to take care of the survivors. Then, they clear us a path and direct us to the survivors where we go in for the pickup.”

Depending on the injuries, the survivors are either hoisted up by a strap around their body or on a stretcher.

“The benefits of this training is that we’re working with the same squadron that we have gone into theater with before,” Major Kupchin said. “The A-10 pilots are getting a lot of upgrade training, and the Pavhawk crew are learning to perfect their techniques and work on the detail and flow of the mission. Then when we deploy again with the 355th, we will work even better together.”



Photos by Airman Justin Weaver

An HC-130, flying over the Pacific Alaska Range Complex, refuels an HH-60G Pavhawk helicopter from the Det. 1, 210th Rescue Squadron's during Cope Thunder here April 28. The annual exercise involves nine units and about 1,000 Airmen and 50 aircraft from Pacific Air Forces, Air Combat Command and the Air National Guard.



Above, Capt. John Manjan, Det. 1, 210th Rescue Squadron pilot, prepares a HH-60G Pavhawk helicopter for an airborne alert training mission in support of Cope Thunder April 28. The joint training mission involved the Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft from the 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, A-10s from Eielson and two HH-60G Pavhawk helicopters, from the detachment. Upper left, a Pavhawk helicopter flies through the White Mountains to the Yukon Range in search of a survivor during the training mission. Left, Yellow smoke is set off to represent enemy fire. The A-10s, who provided close air support to the Pavhawks, moved in quickly (right) to eliminate the “enemy threat.”

